



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/908,930	07/19/2001	Shih-Ping Liou	2000P07787US01	1035
7590	09/23/2004		EXAMINER	
Siemens Corporation Intellectual Property Department 186 Wood Avenue South Iselin, NJ 08830			SINGH, RACHNA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2176	

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/908,930	LIOU ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Rachna Singh	2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2001.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/09/03</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application filed 7/19/01.
2. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 10, and 12 are independent claims.

Priority

3. Applicant's claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) is acknowledged.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/09/03 was considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gong, US 6,751,776 B1, 6/15/04 (filed 8/6/99) in view of August et al., US 2003/0028378 A1, 2/6/03 (filed 9/9/99).

In reference to claims 1, 10, and 12, Gong teaches a method and apparatus for personalized multimedia summarization based upon a user specified theme. See abstract. Compare to "**a method for generating summaries of a video...**". Gong's teaches retrieving multimedia imagery relevant to user-supplied keywords and topics. The multimedia imagery is segmented into multimedia scene shots. See column 6, lines 24-34. Gong further teaches requiring a user to select a theme of multimedia

summarization and extracting multimedia features from each multimedia scene shot using natural language processing and video analysis technique. The multimedia scenes comprise frames. See column 6, lines 24-52. Compare to "***inputting summary sentences, visual information, and a section-begin frame and a section-end frame for each story in a video; selecting a type of presentation; locating a set of images available for each story***". Gong teaches that the summaries include video, audio, and textual information; however, he does not explicitly state that the summary sentences (keyword or topics) are audited to generate an auditory narration of each story; however, August does. August teaches a method of digitally converting text to audible speech and providing the speech to an interactive language instruction system. August discloses digitally converting text to audible speech to a user or student. The audible speech is used in a language lesson where the lesson includes video, photographs, other media, and linking the sound files created from the text-audio conversion with the images and content of the lesson. See page 1, paragraphs [0001]-[0004]. Compare to "***auditing the summary sentences to generate an auditory narration of each story; matching said audited summary sentences with the set of images to generate a story summary video for each story in the video; and combining each of the generated story summaries to generate a summary of the video***". It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate August's text-audio conversion and linking with video and other media in a system such as Gong's as it is desirable to synchronize the various components of a multimedia system in order to supply the user with a thorough

multimedia summary including video and audio that are in sync. See abstract of Gong in which he discusses the need for a unified platform of video. Furthermore, Gong suggests the synchronization of audio, video, and text, thus it would have been desirable to have a means to provide audio for the user-supplied themes relating to the video.

In reference to claim 2 and 13, Gong teaches that the visual information is comprised of video shots and frames.

In reference to claim 3, 11, and 14, Gong teaches retrieving multimedia imagery relevant to the user-specified keywords and topics. The multimedia features are extracted according to the theme selected by the user. The multimedia features include scene shots which have a certain length. See column 6. The user selected theme and individual multimedia features are then obtained and relevance measurements are determined to see which scene should be included in the multimedia summarization. See column 6. The summarization includes keywords/topics extracted from the imagery, video, and audio. Compare to **"generating story boundaries and sentence data using story extractor; selecting a length of a story summary; summarizing said sentence data to produce at least one summary sentence, wherein a number of the summary sentences produced corresponds to the length of the story summary; and ordering the at least one summary sentence based on its selection order"**.

In reference to claims 4, 5, 15, and 16, Gong discloses a multimedia summarization and presenting the scene shots to a user which could be in the form of

media or computer-readable media which could include a slide format or poster. See column 12, lines 49-67.

In reference to claim 6 and 17, Gong teaches identifying features from each multimedia scene shot which includes a number of frames including a beginning and an end. See column 6, lines 1-67.

In reference to claim 7-9 and 18-20, Gong teaches retrieving multimedia imagery relevant to the user-specified keywords and topics. The multimedia features are extracted according to the theme selected by the user. The multimedia features include scene shots which have a certain length. See column 6. The user selected theme and individual multimedia features are then obtained and relevance measurements are determined to see which scene should be included in the multimedia summarization. See column 6. The method also includes forming a subset of individual scene shots that are considered relevant and removing duplicate scene shots. See column 15. Gong further teaches that a time length limit is allotted to a portion of each time slot thus a selected multimedia scene shot's time is proportional to its relevance. See column 16, lines 35-51.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ratakonda	US 5,956,026
Abecassis	US 2002/0097984
Finseth et al.	US 6,665,870
Froeber et al.	US 5,991,594
Ratakonda	US 5,995,095
Posa et al.	US 6,633,741

Art Unit: 2176

Merril et al.	US 6,789,228
Abrams et al.	US 6,675,350
Abdeljaoud et al.	US 6,690,725
Divakaran et al.	US 6,697,523
Yeo et al.	US 6,219,837

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rachna Singh whose telephone number is 703.305.1952. Starting in mid-October, the examiner should be reached at 571.272.4099. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-5).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on 703.305.9792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RS
9/17/04



WILLIAM L. BASHORE
PATENT EXAMINER
TECH CENTER 2100